

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

*This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.*

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended) A body fluid sampling implement used by installing a piercing needle therein and allowing a body fluid to be discharged by piercing a body fluid sampled portion with said piercing needle, comprising:

a body storing said piercing needle and having an opening allowing said piercing needle to pass therethrough; and

a contact part fixedly installed on said body so as to surround the an outer periphery of said opening and pressed by said body fluid sampled portion when said body fluid sampled portion is pierced by said piercing needle,

wherein the an inner surface of said contact part has a portion tilted in such a manner that in a direction approaching so as to near the center axis of said opening as said opening is approached the tilted portion comes closer to a central axis of said opening.

2. (Original) The body fluid sampling implement as set forth in claim 1, wherein said inner surface of said contact part is in the shape of a truncated cone in side view.

3. (Currently Amended) The body fluid sampling implement as set forth in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein:

said piercing needle is mounted to said body fluid sampling implement as a chip stored in a chip body having an opening allowing said piercing needle to pass therethrough; and

said body fluid sampled portion abuts on an edge portion of said opening of said chip body when said body fluid sampled portion is pressed against said contact part in the condition where said chip is mounted to said body fluid sampling implement.

4. (Currently Amended) The body fluid sampling means as set forth in claim 3, wherein an opening area of said opening of said chip body is smaller than an opening area of said opening ~~body~~ of said body.

5. (Original) The body fluid sampling implement as set forth in claim 3, wherein said edge portion of said opening of said chip body is located substantially on an extension plane of said tilted portion of said inner surface of said contact part, in the condition before said body fluid sampled portion is pierced with said piercing needle.

6. (Original) The body fluid sampling implement as set forth in claim 1, used in the condition where said opening of said body is directed vertically upward.

7. (Currently Amended) A body fluid sampling method for sampling a body fluid ~~by piercing a body fluid sampled portion with a piercing needle by use of a body fluid sampling implement~~ comprising:

pressing a body fluid sampled portion against a contact part which is fixedly installed on a body having an opening and which possesses an inner surface having a portion tilted in such a manner that in a direction approaching said opening the tilted portion comes closer to a central axis of the opening, said a body storing said a  
~~piercing needle, and having an opening allowing said piercing needle to pass therethrough and a~~ the ~~contact part fixedly installed on said body so as to surround the surrounding an~~ outer periphery of said opening and ~~pressed by said body fluid sampled portion when said body fluid sampled portion is pierced by said piercing needle,~~

~~the inner surface of said contact part having a portion tilted so as to near the center axis of said opening as said opening is approached,~~

~~wherein said body fluid is discharged by piercing said body fluid sampled portion with said piercing needle in the~~ a condition where said body fluid sampled portion is pressed against said contact part to obtain a sample of body fluid from the body fluid sampled portion.

8. (Currently Amended) A body fluid sampling method carried out by use of a body fluid sampling implement ~~including~~ comprising:

a body storing said a piercing needle and having an opening allowing said piercing needle to pass therethrough; and

a contact part fixedly installed on said body so as to surround ~~the~~ an outer periphery of said opening and ~~pressed by said body fluid sampled portion when said body fluid sampled portion is pierced by said piercing needle,~~

~~the~~ an inner surface of said contact part having a portion tilted in such a manner that in a direction approaching said opening the tilted portion comes closer to a ~~so as to near the~~ center axis of said opening ~~as said opening is approached,~~

said method comprising ~~the steps of:~~

pressing said body fluid sampled portion into close contact with said inner surface of said contact part,

operating said piercing needle so as to pierce with said piercing needle ~~the~~ a portion of said body fluid sampled portion which is projected into said body through said opening; and

sampling ~~the~~ body fluid discharged from the ~~pierced~~ portion of said body fluid sampled portion that is pierced by said piercing needle.

9. (Original) The body fluid sampling method as set forth in claim 8, wherein said inner surface of said contact part is in the shape of a truncated cone in side view.

10. (Currently Amended) The body fluid sampling method as set forth in claim 7 ~~or~~ 8, wherein:

said piercing needle is mounted to said body fluid sampling implement as a chip stored in a chip body having an opening allowing said piercing needle to pass therethrough; and

said body fluid sampled portion abuts on an edge portion of said opening of said chip body when said body fluid sampled portion is pressed against said contact

~~part in the condition where said chip is mounted to said body fluid sampling implement.~~

11. (Currently Amended) The body fluid sampling method as set forth in claim 10, wherein the an opening area of said opening of said chip body is smaller than the an opening area of said opening of said body.

12. (Original) The body fluid sampling method as set forth in claim 10, wherein said edge portion of said opening of said chip body is located substantially on an extension plane of said tilted portion of said inner surface of said contact part, in the condition before said body fluid sampled portion is pierced with said piercing needle.

13. (Currently Amended) The body fluid sampling method as set forth in claim 7 ~~or~~ 8, wherein said body fluid sampled portion is pressed into close contact with said inner surface of said contact part ~~sampling implement is used in the a~~ condition where said opening of said body is directed vertically upward.

14. (New) The body fluid sampling method as set forth in claim 8, wherein said body fluid sampled portion is pressed into close contact with said inner surface of said contact part in a condition where said opening of said body is directed vertically upward.

15. (New) The body fluid sampling method as set forth in claim 8, wherein:

said piercing needle is mounted to said body fluid sampling implement as a chip stored in a chip body having an opening allowing said piercing needle to pass therethrough; and

said body fluid sampled portion abuts on an edge portion of said opening of said chip body when said body fluid sampled portion is pressed against said contact part.

16. (New) A body fluid sampling implement comprising:

a piercing needle adapted to pierce a body fluid sampled portion to discharge body fluid from the body fluid sampled portion, the piercing needle being housed in a tube;

a body adapted to receive the tube and possessing an opening allowing said piercing needle to pass therethrough when said tube is received in the body; and

a contact part against which is to be pressed the body fluid sampled portion to permit the piercing needle to pierce the body fluid sampled portion, the contact portion possessing spaced apart openings at opposite ends and an inner surface extending between the openings, at least a part of the inner surface of the contact portion being configured as an inclined surface, the inclined surface having opposite ends, one of the ends of the inclined surface being located closer to the body than the other end of the inclined surface, the one end of the inclined surface located closer to the body being positioned closer to a central axis of the opening than the other end of the inclined surface.

17. (New) The body fluid sampling implement as set forth in claim 16, wherein the inner surface of the contact part possesses a truncated cone shape in side view.

18. (New) The body fluid sampling implement as set forth in claim 16, wherein the tube and the piercing needle form a part of a chip, the tube being an inner tube possessing an opening through which the piercing needle is adapted to pass, said chip also comprising an outer tube disposed at an outer periphery of the inner tube and a test paper fixed to the outer tube.

19. (New) The body fluid sampling implement as set forth in claim 16, wherein the openings of the contact part possess different diameters, a ratio of the diameter of one of the openings of the contact part to the diameter of the other opening of the contact part being in a range of 1.1 to 2.0.